

GULF COAST BREEZE.

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BANKS TO LOAN ON FARM LANDS

Lewis Bill for Such Provision is Favorably Reported.

FOR BENEFIT OF FARMERS

Georgia Congressman Succeeds in Getting Important Measure Before Congress After Long Fight.

A Washington special says: The house committee on banking and currency agreed Wednesday to report favorably the bill of Representative Lewis of Georgia, making real estate security for loans by national banks.

Mr. Lewis' bill provides that national banking associations shall be permitted to make loans on farm property on the basis of one-half its value, provided that not more than 25 per cent of the total capital and surplus or undivided profits of any such banking association shall at any time be invested in any such real estate securities.

The agitation for the change in the national banking laws has been a long one, but not until the last congress did any committee act favorably upon it. Mr. Lewis succeeded in getting a favorable report upon his bill in the closing hours of the last congress, but, as it was the short session, it was found impossible to pass the measure.

He has kept up the fight, and again have his efforts been crowned with success. There is every prospect of the bill being enacted. Mr. Lewis regards the national banking system as a condition and not a theory, and, viewing it in that light, his efforts as a member of the banking and currency committee of the house have been toward the extension of the facilities so that the farmers of the south and west may secure the privileges and facilities heretofore enjoyed only by men in other lines of business in the cities.

By the passage of this bill the owners of farm properties will be placed in a far better position from a monetary standpoint than they have ever been heretofore with the possibility of securing loans from national banks closed to them.

WILL INSIST ON LIVE RATE BILL.

Democrats Determined That any Rate Measure Passed Shall be Effective.

A Washington dispatch says: That there is still a sharp difference of opinion between the supposed friends of the Dolliver-Hepburn railroad rate bill was made decidedly manifest Wednesday in the senate chamber. The division is over the question whether a rate made by the interstate commerce commission shall be suspended by the courts pending final adjudication, and was brought to the surface in a brief debate which followed a set speech by Mr. Clapp, in support of the bill. In reply to a question by Mr. Tillman, Mr. Clapp expressed doubt as to the power to legislate so as to enforce the penalties proposed by the bill pending a review of any given finding by the courts.

Mr. Tillman and Mr. Bailey took sharp issue with this statement. The former expressed the opinion that the issue is a vital one, and declared that if an order is not to be maintained until a final judicial settlement in a case is reached, it will be necessary to reform the courts.

Mr. Bailey also contended that congress can so legislate as to maintain the commission's rate until the final order of the court is issued, and to prevent interlocutory orders suspending such rates. During the day there were two speeches on the rate bill, the one by Mr. Clapp, in support of it, and another by Mr. Scott, practically in opposition.

The remainder of the day was devoted to the statehood bill, and Messrs. Perkins and Spooner spoke in opposition to that bill as it stands.

SEABOARD REACHING OUT.

System Buys Big Interest in Coal Fields--Pennsylvania Road Furnishes the Cash.

It was authoritatively stated in Pittsburg, Pa., Wednesday evening that the plans of the Seaboard Air Line for its new trunk line to the south from Tennessee include the purchase of 350,000 acres of coal lands in Virginia in connection with the new railroad project.

These lands stand in the name of the Clinchfield corporation, which is the underlying company that is building the Seaboard's new line. The Pennsylvania railroad, which dominates the Seaboard's policy, has a hand in the project, and has \$40,000,000 behind it. This will include the cost of the new trunk line. The money, it is said, has been raised by Alfred Walters, formerly president of the Lehigh Valley railroad, who is now president of the Clinchfield corporation.

This corporation will later become the operating head of the Seaboard system, which will aid the Pennsylvania in tightening its grip in the bituminous fields.

The coal properties which have been purchased by the Clinchfield corporation on behalf of the Seaboard Air Line embrace about 250,000 acres of land in Wyeth and Dickinson counties, Virginia. It also owns 112,000 acres of coal lands purchased from the Crane's Nest Coal company. Much of this fuel is in the celebrated Pocahontas field, and the plan of the Seaboard, when its trunk line is completed, is to open a market for it in the south and southwest, and distribute it to the gulf and Atlantic seaports for export.

The engineers engaged in building the new road expect to get a maximum grade of one-half per cent. As previously stated, the South and Western railroad in Tennessee is the nucleus of the new line. It will be extended nearly 285 miles from Johnson City, Tenn., the northern terminus to the coal properties acquired, and also to a connection with the Chesapeake and Ohio at Elkhorn, Va.

From Spruce Pine, N. C., the southern terminus, it will be extended southward to connect with the Seaboard's Atlanta division at Rutherfordton, N. C., and will also connect with the Atlantic Coast Line and the Southern railway.

Detailed announcement of the company's financial plans will be made in New York this spring. The new line will give the Pennsylvania lines west an outlet from Cincinnati and Louisville to the south, and will cement the cordial co-operative relations existing between the Seaboard, the Pennsylvania and the Chesapeake and Ohio. It will also permit the Pennsylvania to further control production in the bituminous fields.

ROAST FOR ATLANTA POLICE BOARD.

Action Ament Inaugurating Civil Service Denounced by City Council.

A resolution deploring the action of the board of police commissioners in instituting civil service, contrary to the interpretation put upon the charter by the general council, and in direct conflict with the opinion of the city attorney, was passed by the Atlanta city council Wednesday.

Members of council took the position that the police board had no more right to act independent of council and in conflict with the opinion of the city attorney upon such a matter as civil service than had other boards and right to involve the city in debts and litigation.

ALBERT HOWELL SUCCEEDS MIMS

As Temporary President of the Capital City Club in Atlanta.

Following the death of Major Livingston Mims, who was for many years president of the Capital City Club in Atlanta, Albert Howell, Jr., the vice president, becomes president of that institution, and will remain its executive head until the annual election of officers, which will take place in April.

Members of the club generally say they propose to elect Mr. Howell president at the April meeting.

GRIGGS TO LEAD THE DEMOCRATS

Georgian Made Chairman of Congressional Campaign Committee.

IS UNANIMOUSLY ELECTED

Honor Conferred Was Unsought--Party Leaders Confident of Success in the Coming Campaign.

A Washington dispatch says: Judge Jim Griggs of Georgia was Tuesday evening unanimously elected to the chairmanship of the democratic congressional campaign committee, and upon his shoulders is placed the responsibility for the conduct of the democratic campaign for the capture of the next house of representatives. Charles A. Edwards, former secretary of the committee, was elected. All other candidates for the chairmanship withdrew from the contest several days ago upon the assurance that Judge Griggs would accept the honor and responsibility.

The committee was in session about an hour perfecting plans for the organization of the work for the campaign. This election was unsought by Judge Griggs. The fact is that when it was first suggested, that he serve again as chairman he positively declined. But his fellow-democrats in the house were so insistent that he finally consented.

The feeling is very strong among democrats in Washington that they have an excellent chance of carrying the house at this year's election even in the face of the overwhelming majority the republicans now have. This feeling is by no means confined to democrats. The republican leaders acknowledge that a democratic victory is a possibility, to say the least of it. With this outlook, therefore, democratic members of the house have been insisting that the chairmanship of the campaign committee should not be merely a matter of personal favoritism, but that the man best qualified for leadership should be chosen.

They regard Judge Griggs the man because of the experience he has had in this same position.

In the campaign of 1902 the congressional committee, under the leadership of Judge Griggs, put up a far better contest than seemed possible under the circumstances, and democrats have always believed the party would have been victorious had it not been for the prominent part President Roosevelt took at just the crucial time in bringing about a settlement of the coal strike.

Judge Griggs succeeded in getting together a very considerable campaign fund for that campaign, and the committee was in better shape than it has been at any time in recent years.

While Judge Griggs is one of the most popular men in congress, his selection to the chairmanship this year is due to the general belief that his qualifications make him better fitted to carry on this campaign than is any other man in the party.

Mr. Griggs made the following statement concerning his election:

"There has been much guessing of late as to the meaning of my election as chairman. This generous expression of your confidence in me means nothing but that you want me to conduct this campaign, and I consented to do it. My election means nothing but a fight all along the line for a democratic house of representatives. It bears no relations to the political fortunes of any one or the success of any faction. Let us every one turn in now and make the best fight in us until next November."

SUSAN ANTHONY HAS PNEUMONIA.

Noted Woman Suffering Seriously Ill at Her Home in Rochester.

Miss Susan B. Anthony is seriously ill at her home in Rochester, N. Y., of pneumonia, which developed on her return from her recent visit to Washington. She is 86 years old. For a long time Miss Anthony has not been in robust health.

HAMILTON RETURNS HOME

Insurance Attorney Says He Came to Face the Music, "Discordant or Otherwise."

Andrew Hamilton returned to New York on Tuesday from Paris on the steamer Deutschland, on which he was registered under the name of W. Milton. Mr. Hamilton was at the head of the legislative bureau of the New York Life insurance company and had charge of the legislative work of several of the large companies. To obtain an accounting from him of moneys alleged to have been advanced to him by the late John A. McCall as president of the New York Life, John C. McCall, secretary of the company, went to Paris recently. The accounting was asked for by the Fowler committee which is investigating the New York Life affairs.

Commenting on John A. McCall's death, Mr. Hamilton said he gave the former president of the New York Life vouchers for all expenditures, and that to any and all of these vouchers, Mr. McCall would have given a certificate of indisputable character. He said that he registered under the assumed name on the Deutschland in order to have his return voyage free from annoyance. He said:

"What I suppose you want to know is why I have returned. Well, I heard something about criminal proceedings and here I am; this signifies that though my health is far from re-established, I'm ready to accept any challenge implied by such proceedings."

"As to what others have said and done during my absence—and I might allude to those who live in glass houses—I will say nothing."

"You have come back to face the music," he was asked.

"Yes, discordant or otherwise."

STAND READY TO INVADE CHINA.

Senators Allege General Army Staff is Running War Department.

The question of the enlargement of the medical department of the army occupied the major portion of the time of the senate Tuesday.

During the discussion Mr. Hale said that the general staff had prepared plans for the invasion of China by an American army, but he added that he did not mean to go into that subject, "for, with the secretary of state sitting on the lid, I do not believe we are likely to have war."

The last statement brought Mr. Tillman to his feet with the suggestion that "if the secretary of state is sitting on the lid and the secretary of war is trying to pry him off, it will go off because of the greater avoirdupois of the head of the war department."

Without entering into the jest, Mr. Hale replied that he was willing to trust the secretary of war in this matter notwithstanding he had transmitted the recommendations of the staff. He added the statement that the staff was taking upon itself the responsibility for the conduct of the war department. It was, he said, the purpose of that organization to invade China, which would be a declaration of war.

Mr. Hale, was replying to a question of Mr. Tillman, who asked how many troops had been sent to the Philippines with a view of their being sent to China, and Mr. Hale said: "I do not know how many troops have been sent there, but I think several thousand. The purpose of the general staff is that they may be used if any emergency either arises or can be made to invade China, which, of course, would be a declaration of war while congress is in session."

TO INVESTIGATE RIVERS AND HARBORS.

Committee with That Object in View is Visiting Southern States.

The special party of members of the house committees on rivers and harbors, and interstate and foreign commerce, which is to investigate rivers and harbors in Georgia, Florida, Alabama and Mississippi, left Washington Wednesday. The party consists of Representatives Hepburn, Mann, Adamson, Richardson (Ala.), Dovenor, Bishop, Acheson, Alexander, Davidson, McClallen, Lorimer, Jones (Wash.), Bede, Ellis, Lester, Sparkman, Ransdell, Burgess and Humphreys.

ANOTHER STAR TO ADORN FLAG

Oklahoma and Indian Territories Joined as One State.

THE SENATE SO VOTES

New State to Be Known as Oklahoma. Arizona and New Mexico to Vote on Question Later.

At 5:35 o'clock Friday afternoon the senate passed a bill for the admission of a new state to be called Oklahoma, and to be composed of the territory of Oklahoma and Indian Territory. It was the house joint statehood bill with all the provisions relating to Arizona and New Mexico stricken out. The motion to strike out was made by Mr. Burrows, and it was carried by the close vote of 37 to 35, after having been lost in committee of the whole by the still closer vote of 35 to 30.

The final vote on Mr. Burrows' motion was as follows:

Yeas—Alger, Bacon, Blackburn, Bulkey, Burrows, Carter, Clark of Montana, Clay, Culberson, Daniel, DuBoise, Flint, Foraker, Foster, Frazier, Gallinger, Gearin, Hansborough, Hepburn, Latimer, McCreary, Mallory, Martin, Morgan, Newlands, Overman, Patterson, Perkins, Pettus, Rainey, Scott, Simmons, Spooner, Stone, Tallaferro, Teller, Tillman—37.

Nays—Allee, Allison, Ankeny, Beveridge, Brandegee, Burnham, Clapp, Clark of Wyoming, Crane, Collum, Dick, Dillingham, Dooliver, Dryden, Fulton, Gamble, Hale, Hemenway, Hopkins, Kean, Knox, LaFollette, Lodge, Long, McCumber, Millard, Nelson, Nixon, Penrose, Pile, Proctor, Smoot, Sutherland, Warner, Wetmore—35.

The test point upon which the opponents of joint statehood showed their greatest strength was on the Foraker amendment, which provided that Arizona and New Mexico should have an opportunity to vote separately on the proposition of joint statehood. This was carried by 42 to 29.

Provisions of the Bill.

As amended by the senate, the bill provides for the creation of the state of Oklahoma, out of Oklahoma and Indian Territory. The state is allowed the usual quota of executive, judicial and legislative officers, two United States senators and five members of the national house of representatives. A constitutional convention, with 110 members, 55 of which are to be chosen by each of the territories comprising the state, is provided for, and all male citizens, or male Indians, 21 years of age, are made eligible for membership in it. There is an especial provision protecting the Indians in their rights and continues the prerogative of the national government to control their affairs.

The sale of intoxicating liquors in what is now Indian Territory is prohibited for twenty-one years and longer, unless the constitution is changed. Sections 16 and 36 of each township of land in Oklahoma are set aside for the benefit of the common school system, as is also five per cent of the proceeds of the sale of public lands. There is an appropriation of \$5,000,000 from the national treasury for the benefit of the schools.

Provision is made for the support of higher education and charitable institutions. Two district or United States courts, one in Oklahoma and the other in Indian Territory, are provided for. Guthrie is made the temporary seat of government, but the house provision, continuing it in that capacity until 1915, was eliminated.

INSURANCE MEN GIVEN A HEARING.

Many Give Their Views on Bills Pending in the New York Legislature.

For many hours Friday until nearly midnight the joint special legislative insurance investigating committee at Albany, N. Y., listened to arguments of insurance presidents, actuaries and agents, against some of the provisions of the bills amending the state insurance law.